

REMARKS

Applicant, by the amendments presented above and the arguments presented below, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14, 16-20 and 22 are currently pending. Claims 1, 7, 13, 15 and 21 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-6, 8-11, 14 and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Thus, Applicant has amended claims 4, 8, 14 and 22 into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent claims 4, 8, 14 and 22.

Applicant also respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 5 and 6 as they are dependent upon independent claim 4, which Applicant contends is in condition for allowance.

Applicant also respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 9-11 as they are dependent upon independent claim 8, which Applicant contends is in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that a minor amendment has been made to claim 6 for clarification purposes only.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 12, 15-17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by United States Patent No. 3,380,160 to Kirchberger et al.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 15 and, therefore, considers the rejection of these claims to be moot.

Applicant has amended claim 2 to be dependent upon independent claim 4. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 2 as it is dependent upon independent claim 4, which Applicant contends is in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended claim 12 to be dependent upon independent claim 8. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 12 as it is dependent upon independent claim 8, which Applicant contends is in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended claims 16, 17 and 20 to be dependent upon independent claim 22. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 16, 17 and 20 as they are dependent upon independent claim 22, which Applicant contends is in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that minor amendments have been made to claims 12 and 20 for clarification purposes only.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 7, 13, 18-19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 3,380,160 to Kirchberger et al

Applicant has cancelled claims 7, 13 and 21 and, therefore, considers the rejection of these claims to be moot.

Applicant has amended claim 3 to be dependent upon independent claim 4. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 3 as it is

dependent upon independent claim 4, which Applicant contends is in condition for allowance.

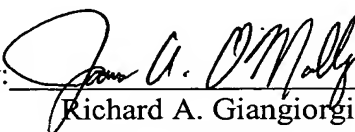
Applicant has amended claim 19 to be dependent upon independent claim 22.

Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 19 as it is dependent upon independent claim 22, which Applicant contends is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 1, 2003

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